

In accordance with the recent rule changes, amendments to the claims are presented herein by presenting a complete set of pending claims, as amended, in clean form. Also, an Appendix entitled "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made," showing the current amendments to the claims is attached hereto.

In the Claims

Please replace the previous version of the claims with the following clean version, wherein claims 4-6, 13-16, 23-26, 28, 29 and 31-35 incorporate new amendments thereto.

4. (Five Times Amended) An image processing device operable in a plurality of modes of operation, comprising:

a memory for storing pixel density data of a plurality of frames;

a state decision controller for determining, for each frame, a state of a frame of said pixel density data stored in said memory;

an operation panel for selecting any of said plurality of modes of operation; and

a selection prohibiting controller for comparing the state between at least two frames, as determined by the state decision controller, and for automatically prohibiting selecting an inoperable mode of operation of said plurality of modes of operation through said operation panel based on the result of said comparison.

5. (Twice Amended) An image processing device in accordance with claim 4, wherein said state decision controller determines a length of a frame of said pixel density data in a predetermined direction.

6. (Three Times Amended) An image processing device in accordance with claim 4, wherein said state decision controller determines a frame size of said frame of said pixel density data.

13. (Five Times Amended) An image forming apparatus operable in a plurality of print modes, comprising:

a memory for storing pixel density data of a plurality of frames;

a printer for reading said pixel density data stored in said memory for each frame and for printing;

a state decision controller for determining, for each frame, a state of a frame of said pixel density data stored in said memory;

an operation panel for selecting any of said plurality of print modes; and

a selection prohibiting controller for comparing the state between at least two frames, as determined by the state decision controller, and for automatically prohibiting selection of an inoperable print mode of said plurality of print modes through said operation panel based on the result of said comparison.

14. (Five Times Amended) An image forming apparatus in accordance with claim 13, further comprising a finisher for stapling sheets printed by said printer, wherein:

said state decision controller determines whether said pixel density data stored in said memory includes pixel density data having a frame size different than a frame size of other pixel density data stored in said memory; and

said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting a staple print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said memory includes pixel density data having a frame size different than a frame size of other pixel density data stored in said memory,

said staple print mode being provided so that said finisher provides a staple processing.

15. (Four Times Amended) An image forming apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein:

said state decision controller determines whether said memory stores said pixel density data different in frame size from other said pixel density data stored in said memory; and

said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting a two-side print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said memory stores said pixel density data different in frame size from other said pixel density data stored in said memory, said two-side print mode being provided for printing said pixel density data stored in said memory on both sides of a sheet.

16. (Five Times Amended) An image forming apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein:

said state decision controller determines whether said pixel density data stored in said memory all have a same frame size; and

said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting an economy print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said pixel density data stored in said memory do not all have a same frame size, said economy print mode being provided for printing said pixel density data of a plurality of frames on one same side of a sheet.

23. (Five Times Amended) An image forming apparatus operable in a plurality of print modes, comprising:

a memory for storing a plurality of print jobs, each print job containing pixel density data of at least two frames;

a print-job selector for selecting one of said plurality of print jobs stored in said memory;

a state decision controller for determining, for each frame, a state of a frame of said pixel density data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector;

a printer for printing said pixel density data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector;

an operation panel for selecting any of said plurality of print modes; and

a selection prohibiting controller for comparing the state between at least two frames, as determined by the state decision controller, and for automatically prohibiting selecting an inoperable print mode of said plurality of print modes through said operation panel based on the result of said comparison.

24. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus in accordance with claim 23, further comprising a finisher for stapling sheets printed by said printer;

wherein said print job selected by said print-job selector contains pixel density data of a plurality of frames and said state decision controller determines whether said print job selected by said print-job selector contains pixel density data having a frame size different than a frame size of other pixel density data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector; and

wherein said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting a staple print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said print job selected by said print-job selector contains pixel density data having a frame size different than a frame size of other pixel density data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector, said staple print mode being provided so that said finisher provides a staple processing.

25. (Three Times Amended) An image forming apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein said print job selected by said print-job selector contains pixel density data of a plurality of frames and said state decision controller determines whether said print job selected by said print-job selector includes pixel density data having a frame size different than a frame size of other pixel density data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector; and

wherein said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting a two-side print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said print job selected by said print-job selector includes pixel density data having a frame size different than a frame size of other pixel density data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector, said two-side print mode being provided for printing said pixel density data on both sides of a sheet.

26. (Three Times Amended) An image forming apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein said print job selected by said print-job selector contains pixel density data of a plurality of frames and said state decision controller determines whether said pixel density data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector all have a same frame size; and

wherein said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting an economy print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said pixel density data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector do not all have a same frame size, said economy print mode being provided for printing said pixel density data of a plurality of frames on same one side of a sheet.

27. An image processing device in accordance with claim 4, further comprising:

a display for displaying an operating state of said image processing device; and
a display controller, responsive to said selection prohibiting controller, for displaying on said display an operable mode of operation of said plurality of modes of operation.

28. (Four Times Amended) An image processing device operable in a plurality of modes of operation, comprising:

a memory for storing pixel density data of a plurality of frames;

a state decision controller for determining, for each frame, a state of a frame of said pixel density data stored in said memory;

a selection prohibiting controller, responsive to said state decision controller, for comparing the state between at least two frames, as determined by the state decision controller, and for determining an inoperable mode of operation of said plurality of modes of operation based on the result of said comparison; and

an operation panel, responsive to said selection prohibiting controller, for selecting any of said plurality of modes of operation, said operation panel automatically prohibiting selecting said thus determined inoperable mode of operation.

29. (Twice Amended) An image processing device in accordance with claim 28, wherein said state of said frame of said pixel density data determined by said state decision controller for each frame thereof is a frame size.

30. An image processing device in accordance with claim 29, wherein said plurality of modes of operation include at least one of economy print mode, two-side print mode, and staple print mode.

31. (Once Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:

a sensor for reading an image on an original;

a memory for storing pixel density data read by said sensor;

means for editing pixel density data from said pixel density data stored in said memory;

an image forming portion for using edited pixel density data to print an image;

a feeder capable of feeding originals having different sizes to an image reading position;

means for reading mixed originals for reading a plurality of originals collectively set in said feeder;

means for determining a size of an image corresponding to said pixel density data of each image stored in said memory; and

means for controlling, responsive to said means for determining, which permits said means for editing to edit an image when all images corresponding to said plurality of originals are uniform in size and otherwise prohibiting said means for editing from editing an image.

32. (Twice Amended) An image formation apparatus in accordance with claim 31, wherein said means for editing pixel density data edits an image in a manner suitable for providing two images for printing on a single side of a sheet.

33. (Once Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
a sensor for reading an image on an original;
a memory for storing pixel density data read by said sensor;
an image forming portion for using edited pixel density data stored in said memory to print an image;
a stapler for stapling a plurality of sheets each bearing a formed image thereon;
a feeder capable of feeding originals having different sizes to an image reading position;
means for reading mixed originals for reading a plurality of originals collectively set in said feeder;
means for determining a size of an image corresponding to said pixel density data of each image stored in said memory; and
means for controlling, responsive to said means for determining, which permits said stapler to operate when all images corresponding to said plurality of originals are uniform in size and otherwise prohibiting said stapler from operating.

34. (Once Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
a memory for storing pixel density data corresponding to a plurality of images;
means for editing said pixel density data stored in said memory in a manner suitable for providing two images on a single side of a sheet; and

means for controlling, which permits said means for editing to operate when all said pixel density data stored in said memory are uniform in image size and otherwise prohibiting said means for editing from operating.

35. (Once Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:
a memory for storing pixel density data corresponding to a plurality of images;
a print portion for forming an image on a sheet from said pixel density data stored in said memory;
a stapler for stapling a plurality of printed sheets; and
a controller which permits said stapler to operate when all of said plurality of printed sheets have images formed thereon from said pixel density data stored in said memory which are uniform in size and otherwise prohibiting said stapler from operating.
